

Washington, DC – Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) spoke on the House floor Monday to recognize the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition for its five-year effort to promote cyber security curriculum in institutions of higher learning, which passed the House on Tuesday. A video clip of the floor speech is on the Congressman's Web site home page at www.rodriguez.house.gov.

"This competition, now in its fifth year, has done so much to educate people about the need for trained and experienced cyber security professionals," said Congressman Rodriguez. "Students in this competition are not only learning and competing in an exciting environment, they are building the skills our society needs to protect our sensitive information networks."

In an effort to develop a regular, national-level cyber security exercise, the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) at the University of Texas at San Antonio agreed to host the first Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) for the Southwestern region in April 2005.

The CIAS has continued to be a leader in the development and implementation of infrastructure assurance and security. Congressman Rodriguez will be participating in a ribbon-cutting on July 9 to inaugurate new offices for CIAS in San Antonio.

The mission of the CCDC is to provide institutions with an information assurance or computer security curriculum in a controlled, competitive environment to assess students' understanding and operational competency in managing the challenges inherent in protecting a corporate network infrastructure and business information systems.

"This competition and the expansion of academic cyber security programs will help meet the rapidly growing demand for cyber security specialists in the public and private sectors," Congressman Rodriguez said.

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